

The claimed invention is directed to a cable connector having a housing made up of at least two components, a first component and a second component which are movable in relation to each other to come into contact with each other about an axis of rotation for electrically conducting connection. The connector includes a closing lever coupled at a distance from the axis of rotation with the first component. The closing lever includes a closing claw which is engagable with a stationary cam on the second component in such a way that the at least first component and second component move in a direction of closing contact to contact each other for reciprocal closing when the lever is actuated and to press cutting tips into conductors, when present in the connector, of a flat cable (in the second component) thereby connecting the flat cable and a round cable (in the first component) upon actuation of the closing lever.

Applicant submits that neither Camps nor Sheynis, alone or in combination, teach or suggest a cable connector having a closing lever as claimed which facilitates both connecting operations between conductors of two elements and locking the elements in a connected position.

6543/USSN 10/534,701
Group Art Unit 2833

More particularly, the lever described in Sheynis is simply a latching mechanism. Sheynis does not teach a closing lever structured to move connectors into a closing direction and to press cutting tips into two different conductors so as to connect the conductors as well as to close in a locking manner the components of the connector. Thus, Sheynis is deficient in its teaching. Further, in view of the lack of teaching as to pressing cutting tips together so as to enter and connect two separate conductors, no suggestion can be provided to modify the latching mechanism of Sheynis to provide applicant's cable connector including a closing lever as claimed.

Camps also does not teach or suggest a connector with a closing lever as claimed. Camps teaches two interfitting halves 6 and 7 with an intermediate plate 8 therebetween containing points 32, 33 and 34 which pierce wires 12, 13 and 14 when the interfitting halves 6 and 7 (with plate 8 therebetween) are fit together. A slideways 25 (Figures 9 and 10) is provided with clipping tabs 23 and cavities 24 to guide fitting of the halves and to hold the halves together once interfit. Accordingly, Camps teaches a structure for connecting two cables as well as a closing mechanism therefor. Thus, no suggestion is provided to

6543/USSN 10/534,701
Group Art Unit 2833

include a separate latching mechanism which only serves to lock multiple sections together. The latching mechanism of Sheynis combined with Camps therefor would be redundant.

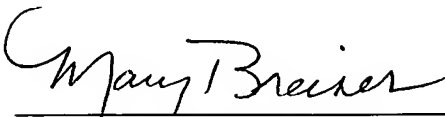
Further, applicant submits that a closing lever as claimed which moves components of the connector together to press cutting tips into conductors to connect the conductors and also ultimately lock the components of the connector together is not taught or suggested by Camps in view of Sheynis. Camps teaches separate elements to connect cables and to lock the device. Sheynis teaches a pure latching mechanism. Thus, upon combining the teachings of Camps and Sheynis, the separate locking mechanism of Sheynis would at most be substituted for the separate latching mechanism of Camps. Neither Camps nor Sheynis provide any teaching or suggestion to providing a cable connector with a closing lever which both connects two conductors and locks the connector. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied references do not render the cable connector as claimed obvious within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103. Withdrawal of the §103 rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

6543/USSN 10/534,701
Group Art Unit 2833

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